

BERNARD SANDERS
VERMONT

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND
PENSIONS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4504

332 SENATE DIRKSEN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5141

1 CHURCH STREET, 2ND FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 862-0697
1 (800) 339-9834

www.sanders.senate.gov

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Fresh revelations regarding the National Security Agency's sweeping electronic surveillance activities allege that the United States has engaged in systematic spying on heads of state in Brazil, Mexico, France and Germany – among other entities.

In the past month alone, the president of Brazil postponed a trip to the United States; Mexico condemned the United States over the NSA programs; both the president of France and chancellor of Germany have angrily demanded reassurances the NSA was not spying on them. Imagine the outcry in the United States if Russia or China engaged in similar tactics against us. These practices are clearly unacceptable and must be discontinued immediately if we are to retain any esteem or credibility in the international community.

The strained relations with our allies as a result of wholesale NSA eavesdropping have impacted our ability to work with these countries in combating terrorism and advancing common economic goals. Clearly, in the complex and difficult world we now find ourselves, it is imperative that we try to improve our relations with friendly countries, not exacerbate them.

I hope you will work with me and other members of Congress in support of legislation that ends the current reckless activities of the NSA, and to develop policies which protect civil liberties and privacy rights while keeping our nation safe.

Sincerely,



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator